

# **House Enrolled Act 1818, 2007**

## **Report to the Legislative Council**



**Indiana Department of Administration**  
**Carrie Henderson, Commissioner**

**Respectfully submitted: July 1, 2008**

**To:** The Legislative Council

**From:** Carrie Henderson, Commissioner  
Indiana Department of Administration

**Date:** July 1, 2008

**Re:** HEA 1818, 2007

---

House Enrolled Act 1818, 2007 requires the Indiana Department of Administration to:

- Commission and place within the state capitol a permanent display commemorating the contributions of black citizens of Indiana to:
  - a. the state;
  - b. other governmental entities; and
  - c. the private sector. ...
- Commission and place within the state capitol a bust of President Benjamin Harrison.

In consultation with the Indiana Historical Bureau; Indiana University Museum Studies and African American History faculty and staff; the Office of the Governor; and the Office of the Lt. Governor; the Indiana Department of Administration has completed a plan to commission and place within the State Capitol 1) a display commemorating the contributions of black citizens of Indiana, and 2) a bust of President Benjamin Harrison.

### **A Display Commemorating the Contributions of Black Citizens**

---

Given the legislation's broad language specific to the display commemorating the contributions of black citizens to Indiana, the Indiana Department of Administration, with the help of the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Lt. Governor, met with the bill's authors, Rep. Charlie Brown and Rep. Vernon Smith, to determine the authors' intent and vision. The authors did not have specific honorees or a specific type of display in mind. However, they did have some suggestions regarding the possible display items and the placement of such a display. Those suggestions are incorporated herein.

#### **Exhibition Parameters**

House Enrolled Act 1818 authorizes a "permanent display commemorating the contributions of black citizens of Indiana." In order to understand the important role that African American individuals have played in "the state; other governmental entities; and the private sector," it is important to put these achievements in the context of Indiana's African American history.

To that end, the Indiana Department of Administration convened an ad hoc committee (planning group) made up of IU faculty members, State policy advisors, and representatives from the Indiana Historical Bureau to help develop guidelines for this exhibition.

## Display Guidelines

**Audience.** This display will appeal to many different audiences, including members of the General Assembly, elected officials, state employees, students, and tourists from Indiana and beyond.

**Themes.** African Americans have lived within the boundaries of the state at least since the time Indiana was a French territory. They have endured slavery, fought for their freedom, established communities, and made the state their home. The display will be organized by theme, and each individual component will provide contextual information so that visitors' can understand honoree contributions within the context of their time.

### Exhibition Themes

- Faith
- Education
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Law
- Sports
- Arts and Culture
- Civil Rights and Civic Leadership

**Selection of Honorees.** The Indiana Department of Administration and the Indiana Historical Bureau will establish a small committee to select honorees. The committee will solicit nominations from historians, educators, and others to identify potential honorees. The program will require:

- The recognition of people from different time periods throughout Indiana's history.
- The recognition of people from across Indiana.
- That honorees be deceased for at least 20 years.

Many of the individuals to be honored may be distinguished in more than one field. A short paragraph describing the person and her or his accomplishments will accompany an image representing the person.

**Exhibition Space.** To accommodate the unique design and uses of the State House, the display will be divided into several sections that will be placed in different parts of the building. Although the final sites have not yet been identified, they should meet the following criteria:

- *Easy accessibility*—Even when the Capitol is congested, visitors will be able to visit the display.
- *High visual impact*—Creative graphic elements will allow visitors to locate display elements easily as they move from one element to another.

- *Context*—When possible, sections of the display will be placed in an area that reflects the exhibition’s themes. For example, the sections touching on the law could be placed near the Supreme Court.

Because the Indiana State House is an historic structure, the Indiana Department of Administration will work with the Department of Natural Resources’ Historic Preservation and Archeology division to determine the type of permanent display that can be installed. In addition to historical placement and installation issues, display lighting and/or other electrical needs may limit display options.

**Educational Benefits.** The design and content of the display will be carried out so that the display can be readily related to Indiana’s Academic Standards. The Indiana Historical Bureau has volunteered to support the display’s educational components on its website.

### **Exhibition Logistics**

- *Budget*—A budget for the exhibition will be determined upon the selection of honorees, as the number of honorees will impact costs.
- *Security*—No original objects will be used in the exhibition. Therefore, security needs are minimal.
- *Maintenance*—Maintaining and updating this permanent display is crucial. Provisions will be made for maintaining the display elements and for updating the display as new honorees are added. The Indiana Historical Bureau has agreed to determine new content to be added when that time comes; the Indiana Department of Administration will work with a fabrication expert to implement needed updates and maintenance.
- *Wayfinding*—The State House Tour Office will provide information to visitors about the display. Finding aids for pre-visit preparation will be included in the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website.
- *Partners*—Throughout the process of designing, planning, and installing the exhibition, organizations and individuals from the community, the IDOA State House Tour Office, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana Historical Bureau should be consulted.

### **Next Steps**

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Select honorees.                                | • Design exhibit.             |
| • Select exhibition spaces within the Capitol.    | • Write educational material. |
| • Write exhibition script.                        | • Fabricate exhibit.          |
| • Formulate capital budget appropriation request. | • Install exhibit.            |

**Timeline.** The Indiana Department of Administration expects to conclude honoree selection in the next 12 months, and expects display design to take an additional four months. The capital budget request to fund the display will be formulated this fall for inclusion in the 2009 biennium budget.

## Display Contributors

Pamela J. Bennett  
Director, Indiana Historical Bureau

Amy Conrad Warner  
IUPUI Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

Tony Kirkland  
Executive Director, Indiana Civil Rights  
Commission

Dr. Modupe Labode  
Assistant Professor History, Public Scholar of  
African American History and Museum Studies,  
and Adjunct Professor of African American and  
African Diaspora Studies, IUPUI

Dr. Monroe Little  
Associate Professor of History and Director of  
Afro-American Studies, IUPUI

Virgil Madden  
Office of the Lt. Governor

Dr. Paul Mullins  
Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology,  
IUPUI

Dani Pfaff  
Research Manager, Indiana Historical Bureau

Jamal Smith  
Office of the Governor

## A Bust of President Benjamin Harrison

---

In conjunction with the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Governor Daniels, Rep. Murphy, and the Indiana Department of Administration have commissioned Indiana sculptor Richard Peglow to design and create a bust of President Benjamin Harrison.

Mr. Peglow began the process this spring by studying various artworks associated with President Harrison as well as researching his history and background. From that research, Mr. Peglow is creating a clay model bust of President Harrison. That model will be sent to a foundry in Southern Indiana for bronzing. The bust will be unveiled in the State House later this year.

**Budget.** Anticipated cost: \$13,000. The Indiana Department of Administration will be including the cost of the bust in its capital appropriation request for the 2009 biennium.

**Exhibition Space.** The Indiana Department of Administration is currently considering two different State House alcoves for the placement of the Harrison bust.

**Timeline.** The bust has been commissioned and is currently in the process of being fabricated. The Indiana Department of Administration expects to receive the bust by year's end, with installation expected upon receipt.